

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, HU, RO, UR

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST CONFERENCE ON CHINA

REF: MOSCOW 10953

SUMMARY. ROMANIAN CHARGE (NEW COUNSELOR) PAID COURTESY
CALL SEPT. 13 ON DCM. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVER-
SATION WHICH CONCERNED SINO-SOVIET AND HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN
RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF CRIMEA COMMUNIST
SUMMIT CONFERENCE LATE JULY MADE NO REFERENCE TO
CHINA, PRC NEVERTHELESS WAS SUBJECT OF LENGTHY DIS-
CUSSION. COMMUNIQUE WAS COMPROMISE. ROMANIANS WERE
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OPPOSED TO ACTION PROPOSED BY SOVIETS AND SUPPORTED BY SOME

OTHER WP MEMBERS AND DISAGREED WITH SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF "CHINESE SITUATION". SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING COMMUNIST CNFERENCE TO DISCUSS CHINA QUESTION. FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, HOWEVER, HOLDING SUCH A CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR QUITE AWHILE. FOR ONE THING THERE IS MUCH LESS THAN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE WITHIN SOCIALIST WORLD. ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WOULD BE OPPOSED AS WOULD MANY OF COMMUNIST PARTIES NOT IN POER (CITED SPECIFICALLY WAS ITALIAN) WHICH HAVE STRONG MAOIST WINGS. FOR ANOTHER SOVIETS HAVE NO TIME OR ENERGIES LEFT TO EXPEND ON ORGANIZING SUCH A CONFERENCE WHAT WITH THEIR HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT IN CSCE, SALT TALKS, BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES IN COMECON RELATING TO DETENTE.

2. PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPARATION FOR A COMMUNIST CONFERENCE ON SUBJECT OF CHINA HIGHLY VISIBLE IN STEPPED-UP SOVIET ASSAULT ON PRC POLICIES SUPPORTED MAINLY BY BULGARIANS AND EAST GERMANS. CHINESE 10TH PARTY CONGRESS PROVIDED CONVENIENT TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY AND SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES HAVE NOT OVERLOOKED IT. ROMANIANS HATE TO SEE QUARRELS DEVELOP BETWEEN SOCIALIST PARTIES AND STATES BECAUSE OF DAMAGE IT DOES TO HARMONY AND COHESION OF SOCIALIST CAMP AND DELETERIOUS IMPACT SUCH QUARRELS HAVE ON SOCIALIST POLICIES. ROMANIANS AS UNHAPPY ABOUT SOVIET POLICIES VIS-A-VIS PRC AS THEY ARE ABOUT SOVIET POLICIES TOWARD ROMANIA. PRC IS IN BETTER POSITION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, HOWEVER BECAUSE CHINA IS GREAT AND ROMANIA BUT SMALL BALKAN POWER.

3. ROMANIA'S OPPOSITION TO SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHINA IS "PRINCIPLED". ROMANIANS BELIEVE REACTION TO CHINA SHOULD BE BASED ON SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES AND NOT ON GREAT RUSSIAN PSYCHOLOGY. SOVIETS ARE CONDUCTING THEMSELVES TOWARDS CHINESE TODAY JUST AS CZARIST RUSSIA DID IN NOT TOO DISTANT PAST. THEIR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PEKING ARE DESIGNED TO SCREEN FACT THAT POLICIES THEY ARE ACCUSING PEKING OF CARRYING OUT ARE SAME AS ONES SOVIETS THEMSELVES ARE PURSUING. ROMANIA FAVORS POLICY OF DETENTE. BELIEVES IT IS A WISE POLICY FULLY CONFIDENTIAL

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JUSTIFIABLE ON ITS OWN MERITS AND SEES NO EXCUSE FOR SOVIET'S URGING OTHER SOCIALIST STATES TO JOIN IN ATTACKS ON PRC.

4. CIMBRU LAUGHED WHEN ASKED ABOUT HUNGARIAN PRESS ATTACKS AGAINST PRC ASKING RHETORICALLY "WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A COUNTRY WITH NO INDEPENDENT POLICY"? HE DENIED THAT HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS WERE NOT

ALL THEY SHOULD BE RECITING AS EXAMPLES OF "EXCELLENT COOPERATION" A LITANY OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS, VISITORS TO BUDAPEST IN RECENT DAYS. WE ARE SUPRISED TO HEAR CIMBRU SAY THAT HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT WHEN SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN OPENLY COMPLAINING ABOUT HUNGARIAN POLICE SURVEILLANCE AND HARRASSMENT.

5. WE ARE UNABLE TO FORM ANY OPINION RE HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE CIMBRU IS ON PARTY-TO-PARTY AFFAIRS. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT MUCH OF WHAT HE SAID TALIES WITH MOSCOW'S ROMANIAN SOURCE, REFTEL. IN PAST WARSAW PACT COUNSELORS, INCLUDING ROMANIAN, HAVE NOT BEEN IN HABIT OF CALLING ON THEIR WESTERN COUNTERPARTS. CIMBRU ORIGINALLY ASKED TO SEE AMB AND PURSUED REQUEST WITH DCM WHEN AMB UNABLE TO SEE HIM. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US HE CALLED BECAUSE HE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY. IT IS OF SOME INTEREST THAT HIS COMMENTS MOST CRITICAL OF SOVIETS WERE MADE IN ELEVATOR AND IN LOBBY EN ROUTE OUT OF EMBASSY. PEDERSEN

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